

Message Text

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61

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-14 ISO-00 SCS-03 SCA-01 L-03 H-03

SY-10 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 PRS-01 DRC-01

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R 311655Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1621

INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 11971

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CASC, PINS, IT, SY (BATES, JONATHAN)

SUBJECT: BATES CASE

REF: STATE 192385; ROME 10453

1. ON OCTOBER 31 RESPONSIBLE ITALIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL CONVEYED SUBSTANCE OF POUCH REPORT JUST RECEIVED FROM ITALIAN EMBASSY DAMASCUS RESPONDING TO MINISTRY'S INQUIRY FOR ITALIAN EMBASSY VIEWS RE EFFICACY OF DEPARTMENT-SUGGESTED THIRF COUNTRY APPROACHES ON BEHALF OF BATES. OFFICIAL EXPLAINED THAT ITALIAN REPLY TO DEPARTMENT'S ORIGINAL INQUIRY ON SUBJECT DELAYED BY COMMUNICATIONS DIFFICULTIES DURING RECENT MID-EAST HOSTILITIES.

2. ITALIAN REPORT REITERATES FAMILIAR ITALIAN POSITION THAT IT WOULD SERVE BATES BEST TO ALLOW HIS CASE TO RUN ITS NATURAL COURSE SINCE POLITICIZATION OF CASE COULD WORK TO BATES' DIS-
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ADVANTAGE. ITALIAN EMBASSY OBVIOUSLY REGARDS SUGGESTED THIRF

COUNTRY APPROACHES AS SUCH POLITICIZATION, PARTICULARLY AT PRESENT TIME WHEN ANTI-AMERICAN FEELING IN SYRIA IS RUNNING HIGH WITH RESULTING IMPACT ON TRIAL JUDGES. ITALIAN REPORT ALSO REITERATES THAT BECAUSE OF THIS ANTI-AMERICANISM JUDGES DO NOT REPEAT NOT HAVE COURAGE TO BRING NOT REPEAT NOT GUILTY VERDICT, ALTHOUGH THIS APPEARS INDICATED.

3. ITALIAN REPORT STATED THAT US SUGGESTION OF THIRD COUNTRY APPROACHES HAD BEEN DISCUSSED THOROUGHLY WITH BATES' LAWYER, BITAR. IT IS BITAR'S VIEW THAT ONLY EFFECTIVE THIRD-PARTY INTERVENTION FOR BATES WOULD BE "PERSONAL AND DIRECT APPROACH" BY PRESIDENT TITO TO PRESIDENT ASAD . ACCORDING BITAR, IF PRESIDENT TITO COULD PERSUADE ASAD TO LET IT BE KNOWN DISCREETLY HE (ASAD) WOULD NOT REPEAT NOT BE UPSET BY A NOT REPEAT NOT GUILTY VERDICT, THIS COULD GIVE THE NECESSARY COURAGE TO THE JUDGES TO DECIDE IN BATES' FAVOR.

4. ITALIAN REPORT EXPRESSES UNDERSTANDING OF ANXIETY OF PROFESSOR AND MRS. BATES RE JONATHAN AND THEIR DESIRE TO DO SOMETHING FOR HIM. HOWEVER, ASIDE FROM APPROACH BY TITO, ITALIAN EMBASSY RECOMMENDS THAT NO REPEAT NO OTHER THIRD COUNTRIES BE ASKED TO INTERVENE WITH SARG, AND ALSO RECOMMENDS THAT HEAT OF RECENT WAR BE ALLOWED TO DISSIPATE BEFORE ANY ACTION TAKEN. VOLPE

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